

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

POWERS, DAVID W., HOUSE

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Two miles northwest of Leavenworth, off US-73

NE 1/4 SW 1/4 SE 1/4, Sec. 16, T 8 S, R 22 E

CITY, TOWN

Leavenworth

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas

CODE

20

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

No. 2, Martha Keys

COUNTY

Leavenworth

CODE

103

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT☒ BUILDING(S)☐ STRUCTURE☐ SITE☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC☒ PRIVATE☐ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

☐ IN PROCESS☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED☐ UNOCCUPIED☐ WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

☐ YES: RESTRICTED☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED☒ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE☐ COMMERCIAL☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ GOVERNMENT☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ MILITARY☐ MUSEUM☐ PARK☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ RELIGIOUS☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Mr. and Mrs. Don Yantzi

2/12/88

Ms. Robin Williams

STREET & NUMBER

R. R. 4

16523 FT. Riley Rd.

CITY, TOWN

Leavenworth

VICINITY OF

STATE

Kansas

66048

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Register of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Leavenworth County Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Leavenworth

STATE

Kansas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Historic Sites Survey

DATE

June 8, 1971

☐ FEDERAL ☒ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Kansas State Historical Society

CITY, TOWN

Topeka

STATE

Kansas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Powers house is an irregularly shaped, two-story brick building with a limestone foundation and basement. It is located in a rural setting in the Salt Creek valley just north of Leavenworth on the old Fort Leavenworth-Fort Riley Road. The Powers house combines the vernacular building tradition with Italian Villa style details, such as the elaborate entablature and the verandas.

The main entrance is located on the northwest facade. The building sets back to the west of the main doorway where a shorter two-story wing has been attached. The land slopes gently downward from the main doorway to the west, exposing the cut limestone foundation. The main entrance is through double carved wood doors which have been set in a segmental archway. An area of brick around the front door is a lighter shade than the rest of the wall. The discoloration seems to indicate the removal of a one story wood porch. (This part of the house does not show clearly in any of the known old photographs.) This entrance no longer serves as the principal entry; the front porch and entry are now on the southeast facade.

Two double hung windows with segmental arches are located to the east of the double doorway on the first story. Three round-headed windows on the second story align with the openings on the first. The building has been crowned with a wide wood entablature with brackets used as dentils between larger coupled brackets. Metal grills which permit ventilation in the attic have been incorporated into the entablature.

There are three aligned windows on each story, including the basement, on the bay to the west of the old main entrance. The windows on the first story have segmental arches, those on the second story are round-headed, while those in the basement have flat stone lintels.

There is a round-headed opening on the northwest facade of the southwest wing. Above it is a small round window.

A very elaborate elevated one story wood veranda wraps around the corner of the building on the southeast and northeast facades.

The southeast facade has a projecting wing with a bay window on the first story and coupled round-headed windows on the second, flanked on either side by one story verandas. Above the veranda on the south corner there are two round-headed windows. This veranda continues on part of the southeast face of the shorter wing. The crawl space under the veranda caused by the slope of the site has been made into a two stall garage.

The house contains the original furnace which was a forced air system with ducts incorporated into the interior walls.

The house remains much as it did originally, though the verandas which were multicolored and the brick arches over the windows which were unpainted have been painted white. The porch over the main doorway has been removed and the rear veranda on the south corner has been replaced. The balustrade, lattice work and

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most of the spindles on the east veranda and northeast and southeast facades have disappeared. The original carriage house burned and has been replaced with a small wood barn.

The Powers house still presents an impressive appearance from the old military road, dominating the countryside of the Salt Creek valley.

9.

History of the State of Kansas (Chicago, A. T. Andreas, 1883), pp. 1277, 1279, 1280.

Leavenworth Daily Times, June 23, July 26, September 24, 1872; October 22, 1884.

Leavenworth Evening Standard, October 20, 1884.

McCoy, Joseph G., Historic Sketches of the Cattle Trade of the West and Southwest (Washington, D.C., The Rare Book Shop, 1932, reprint of 1867 edition), pp. 333-337.

Potter Weekly Kansan, August 12, 1909.

Streeter, F.B., "Ellsworth as a Texas Cattle Market," Kansas Historical Quarterly, v. 4, no. 4 (Nov., 1935), pp. 388-398.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		Western Settlement	

SPECIFIC DATES

1872

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The David W. Powers house near Leavenworth was built in 1872 for one of the leading Kansas cattlemen of the 1870's.

Born in Kentucky in 1818, Powers went to Virginia as a youth and then came to Kansas around 1856 after a short stay in Missouri. For three years he was a farmer in the vicinity of Leavenworth. After 1859 he was involved in freighting operations across the Plains. The name of the company with which he was associated and the names of his partners changed almost yearly, typical of the freighting operations of the period. He made a substantial fortune from his freighting efforts but with the construction of the railroad he sold out around 1870 and turned his attention to the cattle business. As early as 1866 he had been buying Texas cattle and wintering them on his west central Kansas ranch. Fattened for the markets, the cattle brought him good profits. D.W. Powers and Co. owned four ranches and thousands of cattle. He also owned a bank in Ellsworth, one of the Texas cattle-drive terminals, which handled the financial needs of cattlemen. For a time it was the only bank in the town. It was moved to Ellsworth in 1873 from Salina where it had been founded in 1870. A nephew, J.W. Powers, was in charge of the bank while he devoted his time to the cattle interests. (Both of Powers' sons were too young at that time to join him in his business activities.)

In 1872 his large 17-room brick house was constructed in the Salt Creek valley northwest of Leavenworth, and it continued to be his home, in spite of many business interests elsewhere, until his death in October, 1884. The house remained in the Powers family until 1906 when his daughter Mildred sold it to Philip and Nora Baker for \$7,000. In 1911 it was acquired by William LaCaille for \$8,500 and it remained in the LaCaille family until 1946. After passing from the Powers ownership, the house was for a time used as a private sanitarium, but otherwise it has been a private residence. Recent owners have been working on the restoration of the house.

Powers is a typical example of a self-made man in the post-Civil War West. Successful in business and judicious in investments, he was regarded as one of the leading cattlemen of Kansas in the 1870's. His large brick house, constructed when the basis for his prosperity was already well established, is an excellent example of Italianate influenced residential architecture of the 1870's. The house is both well detailed and well constructed and stands as a reminder of a time and of a way of life that helped to civilize the Kansas frontier.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Atchison Daily Globe, August 9, 1927.

Hall, Jesse A., and Leroy Hand, History of Leavenworth County (Topeka, Kansas, Historical Publishing Co., 1921), pp. 432, 433.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 2-3 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A 1, 5 3, 3, 0, 9, 1, 5 4, 3, 5, 7, 2, 3, 6
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE Richard Pankratz, Director, Historic Sites Survey
Cornelia Wyma, Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION Kansas State Historical Society

DATE November 10, 1976

STREET & NUMBER 120 West Tenth

TELEPHONE 913-296-3251

CITY OR TOWN Topeka

STATE Kansas 66612

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE X

LOCAL

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

Nyle H. Miller

TITLE Executive Director, Kansas State Historical Society

DATE December 7, 1976

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

6962 1 NE
(OAK MILLS)

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

Leavenworth
Quadrangle

